



STATE OF NEVADA

Department of Conservation & Natural Resources

DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

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NEWS RELEASE

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NDEP Employees Honored at Regional Environmental Awards Program

CARSON CITY – Two employees of the Nevada Division of Environmental Protection (NDEP) received regional recognition this week from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for their efforts to protect and preserve Nevada’s environment in 2006.

NDEP Recycling Coordinators Kathryn Fergus and Chester Sergent received their honors during EPA’s ninth annual Environmental Awards Ceremony in San Francisco April 16. Fergus is NDEP’s recycling coordinator for southern Nevada and Sergent is the agency’s northern Nevada recycling coordinator.

“We congratulate Kathryn and Chet for this well-deserved recognition,” said NDEP Administrator Leo Drozdoff. “They have helped put recycling on the front burner as an environmental priority in Nevada.”

According to EPA’s awards announcement, the pair was recognized for their “huge strides in increasing Nevada’s recycling rates in 2006.” Their efforts resulted in the recycling of more than 900,000 tons of municipal solid waste -- an increase of more than 22 percent from the previous year. Fergus and Sergent coordinated three electronic waste recycling events and a Christmas tree recycling event, diverting approximately 50,000 pounds of electronic waste and 10,187 trees from landfills. They also released a recycling guide for businesses and public agencies, and revamped Nevada’s recycling Website, <http://nevadarecycles.gov/main/award07.htm>

“These individuals and organizations have applied creativity, teamwork and leadership in addressing many of the West’s most sensitive and complex environmental challenges,” Region 9 EPA Administrator Wayne Natri said of the 38 regional award winners. “Thanks to their efforts, our air, water and land will be cleaner and safer for generations to come. The winners set an example for all of us to follow.”

The Region 9 Environmental Awards Program acknowledges the winners’ commitment and significant contributions to the environment in California, Arizona, Nevada, Hawaii, Pacific Islands and tribal lands. The winners were selected from 160 nominees received this year from businesses, media, local, government officials, tribes, environmental organizations and citizen activists.

(more)

Environmental Awards

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Fergus and Sergent were named to their respective positions in June 2006. Fergus came to NDEP from North Carolina where she began her environmental career nine years ago. Sergent, a nine-year veteran with NDEP, was previously a supervisor in the agency's Technical Services Branch.

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